

REMARKS

The above-referenced patent application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed **June 28, 2006** in which claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 15, 16, 19, 23, 25, 26, 28-34 and 36-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Clark et al. (US Patent 5,187,780 – “Clark”). In response, Applicants respectfully disagree with those rejections. However, to expedite an allowance of this application, amendments were made to selective claims as presented above.

Current Status of Claims:

With this amendment, claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 15, 16, 19, 23, 25, 26, 28-34 and 36-38 remain pending. Applicants offer to amend claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 16, 19, 32, 33 and 38 as presented above. No new matter has been introduced. Applicants respectfully submit that a new prior art search is not warranted based on these amendments.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b):

Relevant portions of claim 1, as currently amended, are as follows:

“An apparatus comprising:
a general input/output communication port to implement a communication stack including a physical layer, a data link layer and a transaction layer, the transaction layer to include assembling a packet header for a request transaction packet to one or more logical devices, the packet header including:
a format field to ...; and
a type field to specify a transaction type...”

Emphasis added.

Clark does not describe the above emphasized elements of currently amended claim 1. Clark fails to describe, either explicitly or implicitly, the implementation of a communication

stack as emphasized above. Thus, Applicants request that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn. Independent claims 6, 11 and 19 also were amended to include similar elements to claim 1. Additionally, claims 5, 10, 15, 16, 23, 25, 26, 28-34 and 36-38 depend from one of independent claims 1, 6, 11 and 19. Thus, Applicants request that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejections of independent claims 6, 11 and 19 and dependent claims 5, 10, 15, 16, 23, 25, 26, 28-34 and 36-38 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 15, 16, 19, 23, 25, 26, 28-34 and 36-38 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. ***The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.***

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 50-0221.

Respectfully submitted,
Harriman et al.

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